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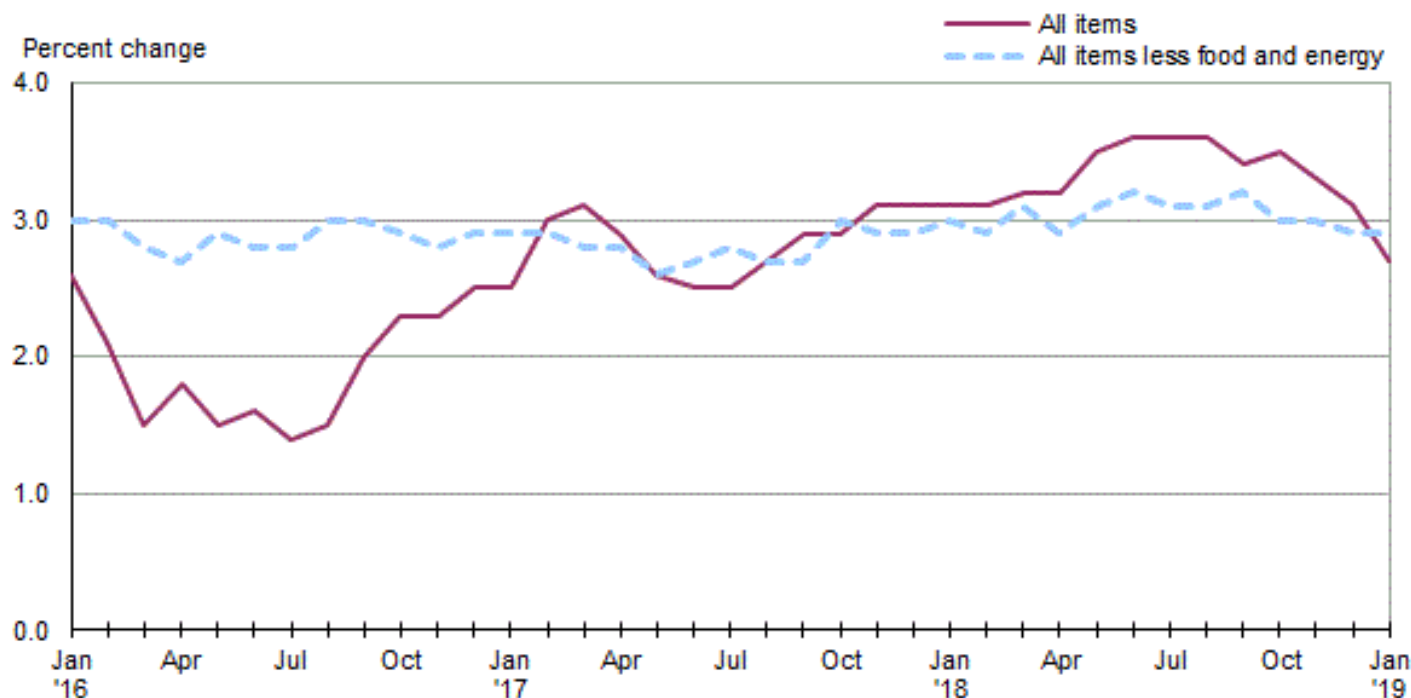
Consumer Price Index, West Region — January 2019

Area prices were up 0.2 percent over the past month, up 2.7 percent from a year ago

Prices in the West Region, as measured by the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), edged up 0.2 percent in January, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reported today. (See [table A](#).) The January increase was influenced by higher prices for shelter and food. (Data in this report are not seasonally adjusted. Accordingly, month-to-month changes may reflect seasonal influences.)

Over the last 12 months, the CPI-U rose 2.7 percent, the lowest year-over-year increase in the index since August 2017. (See [chart 1](#) and [table A](#).) Energy prices advanced 1.7 percent, largely the result of an increase in the price of gasoline. The index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.9 percent over the year. (See [table 1](#).)

Chart 1. Over-the-year percent change in CPI-U, West region, January 2016–January 2019



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Food

Food prices advanced 0.5 percent for the month of January. (See [table 1](#).) Prices for food away from home rose 0.5 percent, and prices for food at home rose 0.4 percent for the same period.

Over the year, food prices increased 2.2 percent. Prices for food away from home advanced 3.5 percent since a year ago, and prices for food at home rose 1.0 percent.

Energy

The energy index declined 3.7 percent over the month. The decrease was mainly due to lower prices for gasoline (-6.0 percent). Prices for electricity decreased 0.4 percent, but prices for natural gas service increased 1.0 percent for the same period.

Energy prices advanced 1.7 percent over the year, largely due to higher prices for gasoline (2.3 percent). Prices paid for natural gas service rose 1.6 percent, and prices for electricity advanced 0.5 percent during the past year.

All items less food and energy

The index for all items less food and energy advanced 0.4 percent in January. Higher prices for apparel (1.4 percent), household furnishings and operations (0.9 percent), and shelter (0.5 percent) were partially offset by lower prices for education and communication (-0.2 percent).

Over the year, the index for all items less food and energy advanced 2.9 percent. Components contributing to the increase included shelter (4.2 percent) and other goods and services (3.2 percent). Partly offsetting the increases was a price decline in apparel (-1.4 percent).

Table A. West region CPI-U 1-month and 12-month percent changes, all items index, not seasonally adjusted

Month	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month	1-month	12-month
January.....	-0.3	0.7	0.5	2.6	0.5	2.5	0.5	3.1	0.2	2.7
February.....	0.6	0.9	0.1	2.1	0.6	3.0	0.5	3.1		
March.....	0.8	1.1	0.2	1.5	0.3	3.1	0.4	3.2		
April.....	0.3	1.0	0.5	1.8	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.2		
May.....	0.8	1.2	0.5	1.5	0.2	2.6	0.5	3.5		
June.....	0.0	1.1	0.2	1.6	0.0	2.5	0.2	3.6		
July.....	0.3	1.3	0.1	1.4	0.1	2.5	0.1	3.6		
August.....	-0.1	1.3	0.0	1.5	0.2	2.7	0.2	3.6		
September.....	-0.2	1.0	0.3	2.0	0.5	2.9	0.3	3.4		
October.....	0.0	1.1	0.3	2.3	0.3	2.9	0.4	3.5		
November.....	-0.2	1.5	-0.2	2.3	0.0	3.1	-0.2	3.3		
December.....	-0.1	1.8	0.0	2.5	0.1	3.1	-0.2	3.1		

The February 2019 Consumer Price Index for the West Region is scheduled to be released on March 12, 2019.

Technical Note

The Consumer Price Index (CPI) is a measure of the average change in prices over time in a fixed market basket of goods and services. The Bureau of Labor Statistics publishes CPIs for two population groups: (1) a CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) which covers approximately 93 percent of the total population and (2) a CPI for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which covers 29 percent of the total population. The CPI-U includes, in addition to wage earners and clerical workers, groups such as professional, managerial, and technical workers, the self-employed, short-term workers, the unemployed, and retirees and others not in the labor force.

The CPI is based on prices of food, clothing, shelter, and fuels, transportation fares, charges for doctors' and dentists' services, drugs, and the other goods and services that people buy for day-to-day living. Each month, prices are collected in 75 urban areas across the country from about 5,000 housing units and approximately 22,000 retail establishments--department stores, supermarkets, hospitals, filling stations, and other types of stores and service establishments. All taxes directly associated with the purchase and use of items are included in the index.

The index measures price changes from a designated reference date (1982-84) that equals 100.0. An increase of 16.5 percent, for example, is shown as 116.5. This change can also be expressed in dollars as follows: the price of a base period "market basket" of goods and services in the CPI has risen from \$10 in 1982-84 to \$11.65. For further details see the CPI home page on the Internet at www.bls.gov/cpi and the BLS Handbook of Methods, Chapter 17, The Consumer Price Index, available on the Internet at www.bls.gov/opub/hom/homch17_a.htm.

In calculating the index, price changes for the various items in each location are averaged together with weights that represent their importance in the spending of the appropriate population group. Local data are then combined to obtain a U.S. city average. Because the sample size of a local area is smaller, the local area index is subject to substantially more sampling and other measurement error than the national index. In addition, local indexes are not adjusted for seasonal influences. As a result, local area indexes show greater volatility than the national index, although their long-term trends are quite similar. **NOTE: Area indexes do not measure differences in the level of prices between cities; they only measure the average change in prices for each area since the base period.**

The West Region covered in this release is comprised of the following thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted)

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Expenditure category						
All Items.....	265.658	265.209	265.624	2.7	0.0	0.2
All items (December 1977=100).....	429.421	428.696	429.366			
Food and beverages	261.227	262.181	263.345	2.2	0.8	0.4
Food	260.931	261.855	263.047	2.2	0.8	0.5
Food at home	247.176	248.218	249.310	1.0	0.9	0.4
Cereals and bakery products	260.910	261.853	262.666	2.1	0.7	0.3
Meats, poultry, fish, and eggs.....	256.148	257.246	257.439	1.7	0.5	0.1
Dairy and related products	226.764	226.828	228.486	0.3	0.8	0.7
Fruits and vegetables	326.857	331.647	334.573	0.7	2.4	0.9
Nonalcoholic beverages and beverage materials.....	172.861	172.432	175.277	3.0	1.4	1.6
Other food at home	211.539	211.872	211.549	-0.3	0.0	-0.2
Food away from home.....	278.829	279.600	280.922	3.5	0.8	0.5
Alcoholic beverages	261.725	263.056	263.861	2.9	0.8	0.3
Housing	290.141	291.204	292.683	3.8	0.9	0.5
Shelter	335.387	336.308	337.955	4.2	0.8	0.5
Rent of primary residence(1).....	356.448	357.850	358.907	4.5	0.7	0.3
Owners' equiv. rent of residences(1)(2).....	353.001	354.193	355.581	4.2	0.7	0.4
Owners' equiv. rent of primary residence(1)(2).....	353.009	354.199	355.586	4.2	0.7	0.4
Fuels and utilities.....	296.737	298.971	299.677	2.0	1.0	0.2
Household energy	249.918	252.425	252.252	0.7	0.9	-0.1
Energy services(1)	251.610	254.277	253.980	0.7	0.9	-0.1
Electricity(1).....	285.186	285.289	284.146	0.5	-0.4	-0.4
Utility (piped) gas service(1).....	186.173	195.999	197.947	1.6	6.3	1.0
Household furnishings and operations	129.971	131.016	132.196	1.7	1.7	0.9
Apparel	117.200	113.373	114.914	-1.4	-2.0	1.4
Transportation	221.074	215.713	212.839	2.1	-3.7	-1.3
Private transportation	216.667	211.645	208.593	2.5	-3.7	-1.4
New and used motor vehicles(3).....	100.804	100.103	100.415	1.0	-0.4	0.3
New vehicles	147.272	147.735	148.085	0.8	0.6	0.2
New cars and trucks(3)(4).....	102.278	102.607	102.848	0.8	0.6	0.2
New cars(4).....	145.021	145.307	145.533	1.5	0.4	0.2
Used cars and trucks.....	132.754	132.951	133.580	1.4	0.6	0.5
Motor fuel	273.456	255.210	239.968	2.4	-12.2	-6.0
Gasoline (all types).....	272.121	253.747	238.517	2.3	-12.3	-6.0
Gasoline, unleaded regular(4).....	269.291	250.792	235.515	2.3	-12.5	-6.1
Gasoline, unleaded midgrade(4)(5).....	260.202	244.108	230.099	3.1	-11.6	-5.7
Gasoline, unleaded premium(4).....	265.512	249.022	235.203	2.4	-11.4	-5.5
Motor vehicle insurance(6).....	854.876	852.986	854.341	5.7	-0.1	0.2
Medical Care	498.112	500.699	502.208	3.0	0.8	0.3
Medical care commodities.....	385.779	385.342	384.030	1.2	-0.5	-0.3
Medical care services.....	533.409	537.012	539.474	3.4	1.1	0.5
Professional services	355.201	355.554	356.295	0.0	0.3	0.2
Recreation(3).....	114.244	115.330	115.443	1.7	1.0	0.1
Education and communication(3).....	136.678	137.114	136.832	0.4	0.1	-0.2
Tuition, other school fees, and child care(6)	1,460.115	1,458.000	1,460.073	5.5	0.0	0.1
Other goods and services	440.655	439.672	441.881	3.2	0.3	0.5
Commodity and Service Group						
All Items.....	265.658	265.209	265.624	2.7	0.0	0.2
Commodities	185.928	184.375	183.890	1.2	-1.1	-0.3

Note: See footnotes at end of table.

Table 1. Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): Indexes and percent changes for selected periods West (1982-84=100 unless otherwise noted) - Continued

Item and Group	Indexes			Percent change from-		
	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018	Jan. 2019	Jan. 2018	Nov. 2018	Dec. 2018
Commodities less food & beverages.....	148.347	145.936	144.858	0.4	-2.4	-0.7
Nondurables less food & beverages	196.810	190.829	187.921	0.7	-4.5	-1.5
Nondurables less food, beverages, and apparel	252.612	245.129	239.022	1.5	-5.4	-2.5
Durables	105.143	105.547	105.906	0.1	0.7	0.3
Services.....	339.594	340.293	341.620	3.6	0.6	0.4
Rent of shelter(2).....	357.100	358.088	359.855	4.2	0.8	0.5
Transportation services	323.655	317.832	318.519	2.8	-1.6	0.2
Other services	353.623	355.347	356.032	2.7	0.7	0.2
Special aggregate indexes:						
All items less medical care	255.025	254.447	254.814	2.7	-0.1	0.1
All items less food	266.572	265.909	266.202	2.8	-0.1	0.1
All items less shelter.....	238.357	237.358	237.279	1.9	-0.5	0.0
Commodities less food	152.561	150.229	149.192	0.6	-2.2	-0.7
Nondurables	229.451	226.607	225.549	1.5	-1.7	-0.5
Nondurables less food.....	201.737	196.144	193.433	0.9	-4.1	-1.4
Nondurables less food and apparel.....	253.173	246.533	241.088	1.6	-4.8	-2.2
Services less rent of shelter(2).....	355.316	355.727	356.645	2.8	0.4	0.3
Services less medical care services.....	326.034	326.541	327.790	3.6	0.5	0.4
Energy	268.239	257.960	248.473	1.7	-7.4	-3.7
All items less energy	267.680	267.943	269.081	2.8	0.5	0.4
All items less food and energy	269.647	269.797	270.930	2.9	0.5	0.4
Commodities less food and energy commodities	139.238	138.775	139.403	0.2	0.1	0.5
Energy commodities.....	278.235	259.887	244.677	2.3	-12.1	-5.9
Services less energy services.....	345.988	346.582	348.004	3.7	0.6	0.4

Footnotes

(1) This index series was calculated using a Laspeyres estimator. All other item stratum index series were calculated using a geometric means estimator.

(2) Indexes on a December 1982=100 base.

(3) Indexes on a December 1997=100 base.

(4) Special index based on a substantially smaller sample.

(5) Indexes on a December 1993=100 base.

(6) Indexes on a December 1977=100 base.

- Data not available

Regions defined as the four Census regions. West includes Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

NOTE: Index applies to a month as a whole, not to any specific date. Data not seasonally adjusted.